

**Minutes**  
**Western Fire Chiefs Association**  
**Thursday, February 26, 2009**  
**Teleconference**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Aleshire, President                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Wendelsdorf, Idaho State Vice President |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Critchley, Vice President                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Brett Waters, Montana State Vice President              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Perry, International Director              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Madden, Nevada State Vice President      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Johnson, Past President                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Paul LeSage, Oregon State Vice President                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warren Cummings, Alaska State Vice President   | <input type="checkbox"/> J. Kevin Nalder, Utah State Vice President              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Adams, Arizona State Vice President       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Broman, Washington State Vice President  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Williams, California State Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Weigand, NCSA Chair                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Silva, Hawaii State Vice President         | <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Griffin, Executive Director                        |

Staff and guests in attendance: Crosby Grindle, Jessica Heintz (WFCA Office Manager) and Samantha Simpson. Roll Call taken – quorum established.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Motioned by Doug Williams, seconded by Warren Cummings to approve the January 29, 2009 minutes. Motion carried.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. WFCA Year-to-Date – Jessica Heintz reviewed the financial reports. Motioned by Warren Cummings, seconded by Paul Adams to approve the financials. Motion carried.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Strategic Plan – Gary Aleshire asked the Board to submit their summary of issues and goals for the President s' Forum.
- B. Draft Statement of Support – Guard & Reserve – A draft statement of support was presented. Warren Cummings asked that a ceremonial signing be scheduled at the Presidents' Forum in Napa. **Motioned by Doug Williams, seconded by Warren Cummings to adopt Resolution 09-01 – Statement of Support for Guard & Reserve.**
- C. WFCA Bylaw Revisions – The proposed changes are cosmetic and do not change the content of our Bylaws. **Motioned by Warren Cummings, seconded by Paul Adams to proceed with the editorial changes to the Bylaws.** Staff will make a notation on the Bylaws that grammatical corrections were made.
- D. Fire Prevention & Safety Grant Application – Jim Critchley provided an update and indicated that this phase of the grant will focus on addressing injuries in the fire service and the tools needed to reduce injury in the workplace.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. IAFC Committee Charters – The IAFC Committee Charters were distributed for information and review.
- B. 2008 403B Proposal – Gary Aleshire reviewed the history of the 403B recognition and retention program. **Motioned by Jeff Johnson, seconded by Doug Williams to approve the 5% distribution to the 403B plan.**
- C. LEOSAD Correspondence – Doug Williams stated that Chief Roper is working to retool LEOSAD in the wake of the Australian wildfires. A revised version will be presented by Chief Roper at the Presidents' Forum.
- D. SAFER Grant & Federal Stimulus Package – Paul Adams questioned the changes to 2009/2010 SAFER grant as a result of the Stimulus package and indicated concern with the struggle to match the grants. Gary Aleshire stated that the Washington Chiefs Association prepared and distributed a survey for their departments and asked for input. Jeff Johnson advised that the IAFC posed the question about reducing the match and/or removing the payback penalty if departments were unable to fulfill their commitment due to unforeseen financial circumstances.
- E. FIRE 20/20 Prevention & Safety Culture Leadership Training Grant – Jim Critchley stated that an endorsement request had been received from Fire 20/20 (Larry Sagan). Fire 20/20 is a non-profit organization which is developing a pilot program to address prevention / safety / cultural leadership training. The proposal is to provide eight pilot programs. The 2-day classes would focus on safety and prevention. Following additional discussion, it was determined that Jim Critchley would gather additional information from Larry Sagan before the WFCA Board would provide a decision.

- F. Nevada Fire Chiefs Annual Conference Proposal – Gary stated that he had received a call from Ken Riddle regarding WFCAs participating in the NFCA annual conference. Gary asked Crosby and Jim Madden to work with the Nevada Fire Chiefs regarding their proposal. Jim Madden indicated he would be happy to assist and stated that Chief Doug Stevens will be appointed as the WFCAs Nevada VP next month.
6. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT** – Gary Aleshire welcomed Jessica Heintz in her new role.
7. **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – Joe Perry indicated that the Mayor of Napa will address the group at the Presidents’ Forum.
8. **STAFF REPORT** -- Crosby asked to be involved in the discussions on President s’ Forum presentations with Mark Light and Steve Westermann. Crosby reviewed Jeff Griffin’s written report which addressed bookstore sales, strategic plan issues and the IAFC Division Task Force. He advised of the preliminary work with ESCI and developing that relationship to provide regional low cost training to our members. WFCAs will also be engaging ESCI in our strategic process this year. Crosby indicated that WFCAs is currently working with Solberg & Adams on a telecommunications audit. He also mentioned that he and Jessica are working on a strategic staffing process and are refining organizational charts.
9. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – Jeff Griffin was absent but provided a written report.
10. **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**
- VICE PRESIDENT** – Jim Critchley reported that he will be in Portland to attend the Leadership Seminar (NWLS).
- PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT** – Jeff Johnson stated that there have been several questions at the national level related to Fire Department cuts, furloughing and brownouts. The IAFC has a white paper on dealing with fire department cuts and how to address them. Steve Westermann will give a presentation on dealing with tough economic times at the Presidents’ Forum.
- ALASKA** – Warren Cummings discussed the Juneau conference and AFCA’s support of the Guard and Reserve. He reported they are attempting to get something submitted for novelty lighters and that the Alaska Joint Conference will be held in Anchorage on September 22-26, 2009.
- ARIZONA** – Paul Adams reported that they are sponsoring a financial strategy forum for 80 attendees on March 12<sup>th</sup>. The first ever instructors conference will be March 26<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal’s office. Paul provided updates on the sprinkler bill and consumer fireworks.
- CALIFORNIA** – Doug Williams stated that the Annual Fire Prevention workshop will be held in March.
- HAWAII** – Ken Silva indicated that the Hawaii state legislature is in session and working on administrative staff positions for the Fire Safe Cigarettes bill that was passed last year. He provided an update on consumer fireworks, residential sprinklers and novelty lighters. He also stated that they are addressing a state statute that requires them to do fire prevention inspections every two years on every commercial occupancy. The push is to allow the Authority Having Jurisdiction to make the risk analysis and determine the frequency of inspections.
- IDAHO** – Mark Wendelsdorf, no report given.
- MONTANA** – Brett Waters, absent.
- NEVADA** – Jim Madden reported that the Fire Tech Conference will be held October 27-28, 2009. He indicated that Doug Stevens will be appointed as the Nevada VP and the Nevada Chiefs will be submitting the appointment letter next week.
- OREGON** – Paul LeSage, absent.
- UTAH** – Kevin Nalder, absent.
- WASHINGTON** – Jim Broman reported on the legislative work day scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2009 and that on March 10, 2009 all of the county fire chief associations are invited for a day long workshop with the State Chief s’ Board. The Annual Conference will be in May in Spokane.
- NCSA CHAIR** – Jim Weigand, absent.
- GOOD OF THE ORDER** – Oregon passed the ban on novelty lighters. The booking deadline for rooms at the Presidents’ Forum is March 22, 2009. Jim Broman suggested that our vote process be changed to a full vote. Motioned by Warren Cummings, seconded by Jim Critchley to adjourn the meeting.

11. **ADJOURNMENT** – Next meeting is scheduled for **April 22, 2009, 3:30 p.m. PST**. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded/submitted by:  
Samantha Simpson, WFCAs Administrative Staff